

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AEC-11 EUR-25

NEA-14 ACDA-19 AID-20 AF-10 IO-14 DRC-01 SCI-06 /221 W

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R 210521Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3463

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AS, US

SUBJECT: DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CAIRNS ADDRESSES NATIONAL PRESS

CLUB JUNE 20

1. SUMMARY: DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CAIRNS SPOKE TO NATIONAL PRESS CLUB IN CANBERRA JUNE 20 IN A THOROUGHLY IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE. BULK OF SPEECH AND QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS AFTERWARDS DEVOTED TO COMMENTARY ON ECONOMIC SITUATION. REFERENCES TO DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY IN SPEECH LARGELY COVERED CAIRNS' PAST POSITIONS ON VIET-NAM AND ON CHANGED INTERNATIONAL STANCE OF LABOR GOVERNMENT. Q'S AND A'S COVERED ISSUE OF CAIRNS' BEING BRIEFED ON SENSITIVE DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS; AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF THE PRG; PROTESTS ON FRENCH, CHINESE, AND INDIAN NUCLEAR TESTS; U.S. DECISION TO GIVE NUCLEAR ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL AND EGYPT; AND CAIRNS' ROLE IN PUBLICLY COMMENTING ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS. CAIRNS POINTED OUT (CORRECTLY) THAT HE VOLUNTEERS FEW STATEMENTS ON FOREIGN POLICY, NOTING THAT MOST OF HIS REMARKS ARE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

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BY MEDIA. END SUMMARY

2. IN APPEARANCE BEFORE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB IN CANBERRA JUNE 20, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CAIRNS TURNED IN VERY IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE, EXPRESSING HIS VIEWS WITH HIS CUSTOMARY FORCE AND CANDOR BUT PROJECTING IMAGE OF REASONABLE AND RESPONSIBLE STATESMAN. CAIRNS SPOKE MAINLY TO ECONOMIC ISSUES. DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS COVERED LESS THAN ONE-THIRD OF SPEECH AND WERE TOUCHED ON ONLY IN TERMS OF HIS PAST POSITIONS ON VIET-NAM AND ON CHANGED INTERNATIONAL STANCE OF LABOR GOVERNMENT. MOST QUESTIONS ALSO ON ECONOMIC ISSUES, BUT FOLLOWING Q AND A'S OF TOPICAL POLITICAL INTEREST.

3. Q. DOES YOUR ELECTION TO THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERSHIP ENTITLE YOU TO BE TOLD FULLY AND IN DETAIL WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THE AMERICAN BASES IN THIS COUNTRY? IF IT DOESN'T, IS THAT SOMETHING THAT YOU WOULD DEMAND IN YOUR NEW JOB? ALSO, DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE FUTURE OF THOSE BASES IS NEGOTIABLE OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THEM GO?

CAIRNS: I BELIEVE THE FUTURE IS NEGOTIABLE, AS THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ALREADY SAID. MY OWN VIEW ABOUT THEIR FUTURE IS EXACTLY THE SAME AS THAT OF THE PRIME MINISTER. I'M NOT SURE WHAT MY PRESENT POSITION ENTITLES ME TO IN RESPECT TO THAT, BUT YOU CAN BE SURE ABOUT THIS--THAT I'M NOT GOING TO RUSH AROUND TO HAVE A LOOK AT THE FILES AT ASIO (AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION, THE GOA DOMESTIC SECURITY BODY). I DON'T HAVE MUCH INTEREST IN WHAT'S IN THEM, AND YOU CAN ALSO BE SURE ABOUT THIS--THAT I'M NOT GOING TO RUSH UP TO NORTHWEST CAPE OR ELSEWHERE AND SEE WHAT'S GOING ON THERE. I'VE GOT A PRETTY GOOD IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON THERE AND I DON'T THINK I NEED TO KNOW MUCH MORE.

4. Q. FOLLOWING AUSTRALIA'S DE FACTO RECOGNITION OF GUINEA-BISSAU, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE SIMILAR RECOGNITION EXTENDED TO THE PATHET LAO, THE KHMER ROUGE, AND THE PRG?

CAIRNS: PERSONALLY, I HAVE SAID THE PRG BECAUSE I THINK THIS HAS GOT INTERNATIONAL BACKING. I HAVEN'T LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAID THE OTHERS AND I DON'T. I THINK THE PARIS AGREEMENT WAS INTENDED TO ACT TO ACCEDE TO THE PRG A ROLE IN THE AFFAIRS OF SOUTH VIET-NAM. I'VE SAID PERSONALLY FOR THAT REASON I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT RECOGNIZED. I DON'T EXTEND IT TO THE OTHERS.

5. Q. WOULD IT BE YOUR INTENTION TO PROTEST IN EVEN STRONGER TERMS TO CHINA WHEN YOU VISIT PEKING LATER THIS

YEAR ABOUT THEIR RECENT NUCLEAR EXPLOSION?

CAIRNS: I SUPPOSE THAT I'VE DONE MORE THAN MY SHARE OF PROTESTING OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS. ONE HAS TO JUDGE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ALL THIS. I DON'T THINK I HAD MUCH INFLUENCE ON THE FRENCH. I HAVEN'T HAD ANY INFLUENCE ON THE CHINESE. BUT I DID HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY IN THE CASE OF CHINA TO SPEAK TO CHOU EN-ALI ON IT FOR AT LEAST 8 TO 10 MINUTES IN AN EXCHANGE OF DISCUSSION AND ARGUMENT. WHEN I GO IN OCTOBER, AS I WILL BE GOING, I'LL RAISE THE MATTER AGAIN. THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS OPPOSED TO ALL FORMS OF NUCLEAR TESTING EVERYWHERE. AS EFFECTIVELY AS WE CAN, WE'LL MAKE THAT VIEW FELT. I BELIEVE THAT THE DIFFICULTIES OF STOPPING NUCLEAR TESTING IS INCREASING RATHER THAN DIMINISHING AND, THEREFORE, I THINK WE ARE ENTITLED TO POINT OUT THE HARM AND THE EVIL OF ALL THIS AND TRY TO MAKE OUR RESISTANCE TO THE PCFLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS MORE EFFECTIVE.

CAIRNS: BUT FINALLY, I THINK THAT WHATEVER HAS TO BE DONE IN THIS HAS TO BE DONE BY CREATING A TOTALLY BETTER ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN THE NATIONS THAT ARE MOVING TOWARDS NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND ATTEMPTING TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THEM. A GREAT DEAL HAS BEEN ACHIEVED BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND BRITAIN IN RESPECT TO THIS, AND SOME OF THE OTHER NATIONS, AND WHILST THE SPECIFIC PROTEST TO INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL LEADERS AND OTHERS WHICH SHOULD TAKE PLACE ARE IMPORTANT, THIS IS STILL THE MOST IMPORTANT AREA IN WHICH A NATION COULD WORK.

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R 210521Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3464  
INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
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6. Q. DOES YOUR CONCERN ABOUT THE FRENCH AND THE CHINESE TESTS AND PRESUMABLY COVERING THE INDIAN TESTS A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, WOULD THAT ALSO COVER PRESIDENT NIXON'S DECISION TO GIVE NUCLEAR ASSISTANCE TO BOTH ISRAEL AND EGYPT?

CAIRNS: YES, I THINK THAT ALL THOSE ARE UNFORTUNATE DECISIONS. THE DECISION BY PRESIDENT NIXON TO DO THIS, IF THAT IS WHAT IT IS, IS A MOST UNFORTUNATE DECISION TO MAKE. IT CAN'T CONTRIBUTE ANYTHING TO THE PACIFICATION OF THE MIDDLE EAST, THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA, AND SIMILARLY, I FAIL TO SEE THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY INDIA CAN STRENGTHEN INDIA IN RELATION TO EITHER CHINA OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY. THE INDIANS SAY, OF COURSE, THAT THIS IS NOT THEIR PURPOSE, THAT THEY ARE DEVELOPING NUCLEAR WEAPONS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. THAT COULD BE TRUE. BUT, OF COURSE, ANY KIND OF DEVELOPMENT CAN EASILY BE SWITCHED FROM ONE TO THE OTHER. IN INDIA THERE ARE UNDOUBTEDLY PEOPLE IN HIGH POSITIONS  
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IN THE GOVERNMENT WHO WOULD NOT WANT TO MAKE ANY SWITCH AND WHO WOULD BE CONCERNED TO USE NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL PUPOSES. SIMILARLY, THERE ARE PEOPLE AROUND THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT WHO WOULD BE QUITE CONCERNED TO USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO DEVELOP THEM MILITARILY. BUT THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF HAS SAID THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE EXERCISE IS PEACEFUL, AND I THINK THAT HAS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

7. Q. THE DAY YOU WERE ELECTED TO THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERSHIP, YOU SAID THIS JOB GAVE YOU A RESPONSIBILITY OVER A MUCH WIDER AREA. DO YOU FEEL THAT THIS DOES INCLUDE FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THAT YOU OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO SPEAK ABOUT FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND IF YOU DO, DO YOU THINK THAT YOU OUGHT TO CONSULT CLOSER WITH THE PRIME MINISTER BEFORE YOU EXPRESS YOUR PERSONAL VIEWS?

CAIRNS: I DID SAY THAT I THOUGHT BEING DEPUTY

PRIME MINISTER DOES INVOLVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER IS SUPPOSED TO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT, BECAUSE HE MIGHT GO AWAY SOME TIME OR OTHER. AND WHEN HE IS AWAY, SOME OF YOU MIGHT ASK ME A QUESTION; THEREFORE, I'VE GOT TO BE REASONABLY EQUIPPED TO BE ABLE TO ANSWER IT, EVEN FOR YOUR SAKE. I WOULDN'T WANT TO DISAPPOINT YOU. IT DOESN'T SPECIFICALLY INCLUDE FOREIGN AFFAIRS. I SUPPOSE I'M LIKE THE REST OF YOU. I GET PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THINGS I THINK ARE IMPORTANT. I ONCE THOUGHT THE WAR IN VIET-NAM WAS VERY IMPORTANT. I DON'T THINK IT IS NEARLY AS IMPORTANT NOW AS IT WAS THEN. I THINK THAT THE QUESTION I HAVE ANSWERED A LITTLE WHILE AGO (ON INFLATION) IS NOW THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE. TRYING TO STEER THIS NARROW COURSE IN THE ECONOMY THAT'S AVAILABLE TO US, THAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE. THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO BE MAINLY INTERESTED IN.

CAIRNS: NOW GOUGH WHITLAM WAS RIGHT. I'VE NOT TALKED ABOUT ANY COORDINATING ROLE. IT WAS SOME OF YOU WHO INVENTED THAT FOR ME. I HAVEN'T SAID I'M GOING TO COORDINATE ECONOMIC POLICY. I AM CONCERNED WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPECIFIC AREA OF TRADE, THE EFFECT OF IMPORTS, THE POLICY IN RELATION TO EXPORTS AND THE EFFECT OF THAT ON THE ECONOMY AND HOW WE'RE GOING TO DEAL WITH THOSE EFFECTS. NOW, I AM NOT GOING TO WANDER AROUND EVEN IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD, AND I THINK YOU HAVE GOT TO CONCEDE I DON'T LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITY TO TALK ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY. I HARDLY EVER SAY ANYTHING UNLESS YOU POINTEDLY ASK ME A QUESTION, KNOWING, "WE ARE GOING TO GET HIM THIS TIME. WE ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO SAY HE IS ON FOREIGN POLICY AGAIN." SOME OF YOU DO THAT, AND IT IS FAIR ENOUGH, ISN'T IT? BUT I DON'T LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO TALK ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY. I'VE SPOKE TODAY TO YOU ABOUT A NUMBER OF THINGS THAT I THOUGHT, AT THIS STAGE AFTER THE ELECTION, I WOULD TRY TO SUM UP, AS A FIRST SPEAKER TO YOU AFTER THE ELECTION. THE OTHER QUESTIONS, THE SPECIFIC ONES THAT CAME UP ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY, THEY ARE NOT DIFFICULT TO ANSWER, AND THEREFORE IT IS BETTER TO ANSWER THEM STRAIGHT THAN SAY, "NO COMMENT."

8. COMMENT: OUR COMMENTS ON CAIRNS REPLIES TO PRESS QUESTIONS AND OTHER, RELATED ASPECTS OF POLITICAL SITUATION IN SEPT. END COMMENT GREEN

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## Message Attributes

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